

EDITORIAL

Legalize, and Tax it.

This past week the campus was visited by Hemp-NB who were waging a campaign to legalize marijuana for medical purposes.

The struggle to get recognition for the practical uses of marijuana is not new. Its uses are not unknown to the medical community. Under testing, Glaucoma sufferers were prescribed marijuana and found to receive relief from their pain. THC (Delta-9-Tetrahydrocannabinol) the active ingredient in marijuana is now available in pill form to glaucoma sufferers. Known to relieve nausea it has also been used to alleviate this side effect of Chemotherapy, a treatment for cancer.

On the practical side, as hemp has fibrous stalks, it can be used to make not only rope but clothing and paper. More paper can be harvested from an acre of hemp than from an acre of trees in a year. As mature hemp plants can be grown in four months, thereby making it harvestable up to three times a year, it is therefore, a much more renewable resource than our forests. This summer in Ontario, the first legal crop of hemp in over twenty five years was planted in Canada.

With millions being thrown at stemming the flow of illegal drugs into this country having failed to put much more than a dent in the drug trade, while the drug cartels are becoming rich beyond Midas from the multi billion dollar a year trade, can we afford to continue to wage a war which we cannot possibly win as the public support is obviously no longer there?

While legalization is not the only answer, it is a good one. Rather than letting the drug cartels sell their wares on the streets of Canada, to anyone with the money to make the purchase, if we move the drugs into a controlled environment like liquor stores, rather than spending money in an exercise of futility, the government can make money through taxation, use this income to support social programs and monitor quality at the same time. This would also make it harder for children to obtain marijuana and other drugs.

We can no longer sit back and think that the authorities are making any difference. As it became harder to import marijuana, and the price went up, the trade just went farther underground until now, where it is rumoured to surpass trees as British Columbia's #1 cash crop. Therefore, through the current program, this large industry which grows a product that is obviously in great demand, is paying no taxes on the goods produced. The government is not receiving their share of the revenue. Thus, while making a fortune, the drug dealers are being subsidised by the government who, failing to collect these taxes, force the rest of the country to stagger under the weight of the tax burden. It's time we cured our drug problem. Legalize, and tax it.



Have you ever wrapped your mouth around a '74 Caprice Classic exhaust pipe and inhaled for all you were worth? Well, then you've experienced the same strange, but beautiful sensation of getting toasted on the pleasant aroma of paint fumes. If you've been in the SUB recently then you know exactly what I mean with all the painting that's going on.

You might have noticed the back stairwell going towards the Harriet Irving has lost its smoker teeth yellow for an insane asylum white colour. You know there's nothing more comforting than staring at blank white wall thinking 'Should I eat my Chunky Soup with a rubber fork or a rubber spoon?'

It even seems the Student Union has revealed their true colours. They've had their doors painted a very flattering 'Tory Blue'. While I was assured that their doors were in fact 'Angel Hair Blue', I don't believe them for a moment. I know the old Tory colours of domination. Maybe this is the Student Union's way of showing that UNB colours are as irrelevant as they are. After all, the Angel Hair Blue Revue sounds much better than the Red and Black Revue. I have noticed that the St. Thomas Student Union has chosen to remain with their alma mater's traditional colours adorning their office doors.

The Brunswickan offices doors were also slated for a new slick blue latex dress of some sort. I'll give you hint what colours are going to be. Can you say tradition Boys and Girls? Yup, you'll see a glorious, no... awe inspiring red with our cute little mascot Sharky outlined in black. I suppose it beats the 70's brown and orange Hallowe'en massacre that drools there now. If red isn't the main colour, I swear to God I'll paint them with red nail polish.

I'm glad that the SUB is getting a new paint job but there's a rule of Morgan # 37; Why bother to wipe if you're just gonna do it again anyway. It's one of those sarcastic rules.

Hey, if you've got an eagle eye than you've noticed the Student Union has installed new partitions in their VP student services and finance room. When I go into there I feel like I'm in that funky shrub maze from *The Shining* and Jackie Nicholson is going to jump out and swing a fire axe into my little tummy. If you look really hard, you can see between the partitions. This helps me see if anyone is sitting at their desk instead of yelling for them.

I noticed that Sir PineTree has taped his partitions really tight so you can't see behind them. Talk about public figures trying to get their privacy. What's he do behind those walls beside juggle the big S.U.C. (Student Union Council) budget? Is this another example of the Student Union alienating themselves from students? Naw, possibly it's the Les Nessman complex rearing its ugly face. Les felt insecure so he reacted to the world in very territorial manner. Les decided to protect his Buckeye News Hawk Awards and his insecurities with yellow tape boundaries symbolizing where walls might one day go. Les never got his walls but he accepted this because he relised insecurities only slow you down. What the world needs is to take down the walls and build less of them. I hope I did WKRP in Cincinnati justice by paraphrasing what Andy Travis said to Les Nesman.

Blood n' Thunder

Upset with Weinman

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to a letter which appeared in the November 4 issue of the *Brunswickan*, entitled "Student Union Extortion?". Mr. Weinman went on and on and on lamenting about the Student Union health plan.

Firstly, Mr. Weinman, I'm sorry that you had to wait in line. Shit happens. As one of the workers at the Health Plan Station, I'd advise you to buy a watch; most students commented on how quickly the line-ups moved, and said that the average wait was ten minutes, max. Oh, that was if you had actually bothered to read the dozens of signs telling you what paperwork you needed and which forms to fill out. If you didn't, it probably took a wee bit longer.

Secondly, I'd rather have the Student Union hold onto my \$100 for eight weeks and use the interest earned to beef up student services than have the University keep it forever. I paid \$125 dollars over my first five years of school for University Blue Cross coverage that was useless because (a) the plan was pathetic, and (b) I was already covered under my parents' plan. However, note that the University didn't offer rebates, or go to any lengths to let students know about the plan. If my memory serves me correctly, those health insurance payments were also mandatory, and nobody complained. Hmmm...

Down with the Student Union, those @!#!% extortionists!!! Can you imagine a Student Union actually providing members with a plan that covers prescription drugs (including birth control), prescription lenses (let them go blind!!!), tutorial benefits, etc.? On top of that, students are able to opt out if they have alternative coverage. Sounds like extortion to me, especially when it was the student body that voted to bring this health plan to UNB, not some SU Executive. Mr. Weinman also fails to note that extended health coverage is a condition of being a student at UNB (Board of Governors regulation, not SU). Maybe he knows of a better way to ensure that these regulations are met—hey, we could all line up down at the Comptroller's office!!!

Well, I have my refund cheque safely in the old bank account, and I'll opt out of any health plan for the remainder of my law school years. At least I have the option of getting my money back, and the people who really need the coverage have a useful plan. I'm glad to see that Mr. Weinman has gotten over the bitterness stemming from his disqualification from the Student Union by-elections. Those constructive criticisms about our health plan are sure to come in handy.

Shona Bertrand

Upset by smokers at Maggie Jean Chestnut

Non-smokers unite!

The current debate over smoking has taken sides at Maggie Jean Chestnut residence. The issues are simply over containment, health and safety in an educational environment.

Ironically, the University of New Brunswick passed a law prohibiting smoking from all university buildings and offices, excluding

residences, this past summer. As it was, residences were left to themselves to decide over matters affecting their houses—but were they?

For almost two months, non-smokers at Maggie Jean have been speaking out against the house rules that currently permit smoking in students' rooms and the common area off the kitchenette. The problem over containment is due to the fact that smoke does not stay in rooms and designated areas. Smoke naturally drifts into hallways, other rooms, students' clothing and, worst of all, non-smokers' lungs. Non-smoking students are thus forced to study and operate in an atmosphere that seriously damages their health and well-being.

The issues surrounding second hand smoke are alarming. According to the Heart and Stroke foundation, second hand smoke contains over 4000 chemicals, of which 40 are proven to cause cancer.¹ Second hand smoke contains more tar and carbon monoxide than what is directly inhaled by smokers themselves. The statistics are all too common and obvious. What is alarming is that UNB (knowing the statistics and issues surrounding this debate) has no residence alternative for the non-smoker to turn to.

Recent conversations with James Skidmore, the Dean of Residence over the circulation of a petition at Maggie Jean called for mediation on the part of non-smokers to resolve the problem at hand before dividing the house further. But these efforts have failed largely due to house bureaucracy. As of yet, no action has been taken by the residence or house community. At first, it was proposed that a compromise banning smoking in the common area off the kitchenette would ease tensions, but this has only increased the debate. By simply banning smoking from the kitchenette, non-smokers believe this would only force smokers into their rooms and thus create a greater volume of smoke in the halls and common areas of the house.

Smoking also opens questions over safety. Maggie Jean residence, an historic and primarily wooden Victorian building cannot afford to permit smoking in terms of risk to fire alone. Already smoking in individual rooms has caused room smoke-detectors to go off during the night due to this increased volume of smoke traffic. Smoke detectors now connected to a newly installed sprinkler system in the house would illicit disastrous consequences for students' rooms and pockets if such an accident were to happen. Thus non-smokers concerned over safety are placing a lot of trust in the hands of a few at Maggie Jean.

What can be done then? It is the contention of most non-smokers at Maggie Jean that the only solution to this smoking problem is to call for a total ban on smoking altogether. This rather drastic but necessary measure is our only option based on the fact that second hand smoke cannot be contained and that smoking is a health and safety problem. Together non-smokers have united in what they believe to be a righteous cause at Maggie Jean. Someday, smokers will acknowledge the misery of their actions and concede in their selfishness for the well-being of others.

Kevin A. Skeoch
Faculty of Education, UNB

¹ Heart and Stroke Foundation "Second hand smoke and your heart: what is second hand smoke?"

Upset with Anti-Christ

Dear Editor,

I was very pleased to see how well UNB placed in the latest university rankings published by Maclean's magazine in their November 14th issue. It was quite encouraging to see that my alma mater has the reputation of a high quality institution. In addition, I was quite proud to be able to say that we have one of the highest populations of international students and that the Harriet Irving Library can hold its own. There is still much work to be done, but the university has come a long way since Maclean's started this annual tradition.

However, I was extremely disappointed and, admittedly, embarrassed by Patrick FitzPatrick's (sic) participation in the article entitled "Taking the Campus Pulse". I found many of his comments insulting, thoughtless and unrepresentative of the quality of student leadership that has been at UNB over the past decade. In fact, it is most surprising that, by the manner in which Mr. FitzPatrick (sic) articulates himself, he is even in university at all.

Comments such as 'the rich kids' versus 'the janitors' kids' serve to strengthen perceived class divisions. If I were a rich kid or a prof's kid or a lawyer's kid, I would find the article quite derogatory. Reasons for not attending UNB go well beyond not being able to afford other institutions. Mr. FitzPatrick's (sic) basic disrespect for his peers and the reader is further demonstrated in his "damn" and "damn" that attitude.

As an ambassador from the Student Union, the university, the City of Fredericton, and the Province of New Brunswick, it is intolerable that Mr. FitzPatrick (sic) could even formulate the thought:

Premier McKenna, who most of us out east would consider to be the Antichrist... While some may not be great fans of the Premier, I found the comparison malicious and entirely unnecessary.

It is quite obvious that Mr. FitzPatrick is unable to separate his personal views as a student from his professional ones as a vice-president of the Student Union. What is even more disconcerting is the fact that as a member of the University Board of Governors, Mr. FitzPatrick has not only undermined the credibility of the student government on campus but he has given the entire university a black eye.

If Mr. FitzPatrick (sic) is any indication of the student leadership at the university, then Maclean's should rank the UNB Student Union last! I am unsure of the process that was undertaken to choose Mr. FitzPatrick (sic) as a participant in the Maclean's article but I hope the Council that nominated him has apologised to the student body, amongst others, for its decision. Perhaps someone should remind the students as to how they can go about removing Mr. FitzPatrick (sic) from office. Sincerely,

James van Raalte
Class Of 1994

P.S. Please note that I have not copied my letter to Mr. FitzPatrick (sic) as I feel it would be appropriate that he view my comments the way everyone first read his—in public print.

The Grad ZONE

Funding for Graduate Societies

The GSA has adopted a policy which will increase support for graduate societies.

Applications for Group Support must be received by the GSA no later than Dec. 2, 1994.

Applications must include:

- Name of Society
- A Constitution
- A list of Members
- A Budget for 1994-95

Send Applications via campus mail to :
President, GSA

Still Vacant

- Executive Positions
- Second Vice President
- Arts Representative
- Forestry Representative
- Education Representative

- CHSR Board of Directors Seat
- Student Union Seat
- Student Standing & Promotion

If you are interested in any of the above, please contact the GSA Executive as soon as possible.

We are located in Room #3 of Mobile Unit 1, behind Tilley Hall
Ph: 453-4700